

Doctrine of the Sin Barrier

1. A great spiritual barrier lies between God and man due to the transgression of Adam in the Garden of Eden.
2. The “bricks” of this sin barrier can be identified as they form a humanelly impregnable wall of separation keeping man from fellowshipping with the living God.
 - Sin
 - The penalty for sin
 - Relative righteousness
3. The first spiritual “brick” of the barrier is sin. Sin, by definition, is any violation of or lack of conformity to God's perfect will, whether expressed or not. The result of sin is spiritual death or the separation of man from God.
 - *Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*
 - *Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
4. The Bible teaches that all have sinned with only one exception and that is the Lord Jesus Christ who was born of a virgin and so born outside the slave market of sin.
 - *Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
 - *Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
5. There are two basic reasons why all sin.
 - Individuals Sin Because of the Imputation of Adam’s Sin to the Soul. When Adam made the decision to violate the known will of God he plunged the entire human race in sin because in the divine economy all individuals were seminally in Adam and so vicariously participated in his sin. This theological construct is set forth in Romans 5:12-21 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. 15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. 20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord”.

What the imputation of Adam's sin to the soul means practically is that every person is born with a sin nature. His natural inclination is to rebel against God and assert his own will. Furthermore, the soul enters into the world under the judgment of God.

Romans 3:9 What then? Are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? 17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. 19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

- Individuals Sin by Personal Choice. The will to power and the principle of pleasure influences the soul to continue to sin by choice. *Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

6. The second spiritual “brick” of the sin barrier is the penalty for sin which is threefold. There is spiritual death and physical leading to eternal death.

- Spiritual death means that an individual does not have any intimate fellowship with God. There is no spiritual life apart from a divine “quickenings”. The soul is alienated from God and shut off from covenant blessings.

Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

- Physical death involves the gradual deterioration of the physical body until the soul is separated from the body. *Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

7. The third spiritual “brick” of the sin barrier is that of relative righteousness.

8. Despite the imputation of Adam’s sin and the personal choices made to sin, individuals still believe they are fundamentally good and this goodness will make them acceptable to God. This is the problem of relative righteousness.

9. When a person compares himself to someone like Adolph Hitler they feel good about themselves. But the problem is that the basis of comparison is not person to person but person to God. Now there is a problem because God’s character is perfect.

10. All works of “righteousness” will only serve to condemn the soul, but they cannot save.

- *Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*
- *Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.*

- *Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

11. Though the main spiritual “bricks” of the sin barrier have created an insurmountable wall for humans to overcome, grace has found a way to tear down all obstacles.

In a speech at the Brandenburg Gate in Germany commemorating the 750th anniversary of Berlin, by the Berlin Wall on June 12, 1987, United States President Reagan challenged Mikhail Gorbachev, then the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, to tear it down as a symbol for increasing freedom in the Eastern Bloc. The world will long remember the president saying, “*Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!*” In matchless grace God has found a way to tear down the wall of separation between Himself and man.

12. To remove the sin barrier Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth, took a human body, and by His substitutionary death on the cross tore down the wall.

- *Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
- *1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
- *1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

13. The first spiritual “brick” of sin is removed by a definite redemption. Christ came to save His people from their sins.

- *Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*
- *Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*
- *Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*
- *Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*
- *1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

14. The second spiritual “brick” of involving death is removed by substitution. Christ died in our place, the just for the unjust thereby satisfying the strict demands of the law. The imputation of the righteousness of Christ is free to be given to sinners. Eternal life becomes the gift of God for the people of God.

- *John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*
- *2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. 16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
- *Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*
- *1 Timothy 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all [without distinction], to be testified in due time.*
- *1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us [the elect] to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

Because of the substitutionary work of Christ at Calvary the problem of man’s physical birth and spiritual death, is removed by regeneration or the new birth.

- *John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. 9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things*

be? 10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? 11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. 12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? 13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- *Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

15. The third spiritual “brick” of the sin barrier of man’s relative righteousness contrasted to God’s absolute righteousness is removed by propitiation, which refers to God’s satisfaction with the work of Christ at Calvary. While God is never impressed with human good He is impressed and satisfied with His Son.

- *Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

16. The way to appropriate all that Christ has done for sinners is to confess by faith for Him to be both Lord and Savior.

- *Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

17. Eternal life is yours for the asking, it is yours for the receiving by believing in Christ as savior.

- *John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
- *John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- *Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

- *Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*